

REMARKS

THE NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT MAILED 01/15/2009

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed 01/15/2009 has been cancelled and replaced by the Notice mailed March 10, 2009.

The present Amendment is submitted in response to the Notices of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed January 15, 2009 and March 15, 2009. In the present Amendment, Claims 1-38 have now been indicated as being cancelled without prejudice, and replaced by new claims 39-82.

The remaining claim amendments and remarks are identical to the claim amendments and remarks submitted with the Amendment mailed December 11, 2008 (copy enclosed).

The claims have been amended in a manner to recite preferred embodiments of the invention and to better distinguish the present invention over the art of record.

Early examination and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SUBMITTED HEREWITH

There is also being submitted herewith a Supplementary Information Disclosure Statement which lists certain patent publications which turned up in a Supplementary European Search Report mailed September 9, 2008 by the European Patent Office in applicant's corresponding European application no. EP 03 72 3709.

The following patent publications have been cited in the search report and are not presently of record in the present application:

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,555,960;
2. German Patent Publication No. DE 40 03 561 C1; and
3. French Patent Publication No. 1, 038, 376 A.

A copy of the Supplementary European Search report completed September 1, 2008 is submitted herewith, along with Form-PTO 1449 and a Supplementary Information Disclosure Statement. Two of the patent publications which turned up in the Supplementary European Search Report, namely U.S. Patent No. 5, 897,039 to Swenke and U.S. Patent No. 3,198,300 to Tuttle are presently of record in the present application. Accordingly they are not listed on Form PTO-1449 submitted herewith.

The Supplementary European Search Report indicates the degree of relevance found by the European Patent Office of each of the five patent publications with respect to the claims then of record in the European application.

Copies of all of the above-described enclosures were submitted with the Amendment filed December 11, 2008. Accordingly, copies of these documents are not submitted herewith.

The claims submitted herewith are believed to be allowable over all of the art of record herein, considered individually or in combination, in whole or in part.

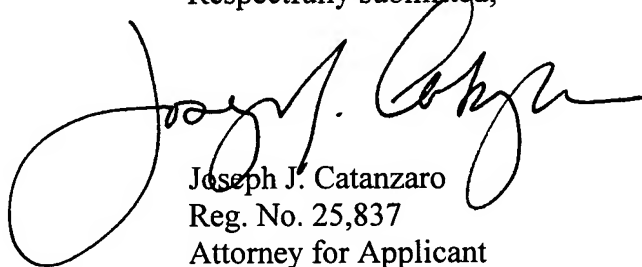
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No fee is believed to be due in connection with the submission of the
Supplementary European Search Report submitted herewith.

Our check for \$156 is submitted herewith to cover the extra claim fee.

Please charge any additional fee(s) which may become due, and credit any
overpayment(s) to Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,



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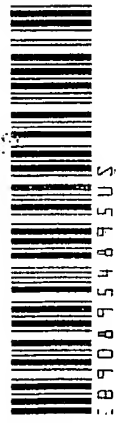


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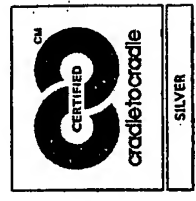
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